

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: CISL SECRETARY MARINI RESPONDS TO CGIL CRITICISMS OF LABOR
UNITY

1. EVIDENCE IS ACCUMULATING THAT THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) IS EXPERIENCING MAJOR DIFFICULTIES, THAT THE LABOR UNITY MOVEMENT MAY BE COMING UNSTUCK. A SERIES OF NEGATIVE REACTIONS TO THE PUBLIC APPEARANCES OF SOME OF THE CCU'S LEADING PRO-PONENTS (ROME'S 9623) LED TO SOME INTENSE INTROSPECTION WITHIN THE CCU, PARTICULARLY BY THE COMMUNISTS. IN RECENT DAYS, ATTACKS ON THE CCU AND ON LABOR UNITY HAVE COME FROM TWO LEADING CGIL FIGURES: RINALDO SCHEDA (PCI), CGIL NATIONAL SECRETARY, AND BRUNO TRENTIN (PCI), SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CGIL'S METAL WORKERS UNION (FIOM). TRENTIN'S ATTACK WAS PARTICULARLY SHARP AND COULD NOT BE REGARDED AS A SLAP AT CGIL SECRETARY GENERAL LAMA WHO IS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE LABOR UNITY LINES OF THE CGIL.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 11, FRANCO MARINI, NATIONAL CISL SECRETARY AND A PERSON SQUARELY PLANTED BETWEEN THE POLES REPRESENTED IN
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CISL BY STORTI AND SCALIA (AND JUST RETURNED FROM THE U.S.),

HAD AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE DC DAILY "IL POPOLO." IT IS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, A LENGTHY AND VIGOROUS RESPONSE TO TRENTIN. (THERE ARE OTHER INTERESTING NUANCES IN MARINI'S ARTICLE WHICH WILL BE FORWARDED SEPARATELY IN TRANSLATION.)

3. MARINI WRITES THAT "TRENTIN HAD TAKEN UPON HIMSELF THE RESPONSIBILITY TO DECLARE OFFICIALLY OPENED A STATE OF CRISIS WITHIN THE CCU, BUT HIS POSITION IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE." HE GOES ON TO SAY THAT "I DO NOT BELIEVE I AM BEING TOO GENEROUS TO TRENTIN AND HIS FOLLOWERS WHEN I ASSERT THAT HIS LINE HAS BEEN MORE OR LESS THE ONE ADOPTED BY THE CCU DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS. ...HE IS CHARGING THE CCU WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR A POLICY WHICH IS BASICALLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIM AND TO THOSE NEAREST HIM."

4. CONTINUING HIS ATTACK ON TRENTIN, MARINI STATES THAT "THE FAILURES WHICH TRENTIN IMPUTES TO THE FEDERATION WOULD BETTER BE IMPUTED TO HIS OWN RANKS. I WILL NEVER FORGET THE PREPARATORY PHASE OF THE JUNE 27 GENERAL STRIKE, WILLED BY TRENTIN AND HIS FOLLOWERS, AND SUBSEQUENTLY SCORNFULLY BLAMED ON THE FEDERATION AS A SERIOUS ERROR OF LEADERSHIP. SUCH DECISIONS," MARINI CONTINUES, "ARE ADOPTED DUE TO THE TIMIDITY OF A FEW OF THE FUNCTIONARIES OF THE CCU, NOTWITHSTANDING THE SHARP RESISTANCE OF OTHERS."

5. COMMENT: THE "TIMIDITY" CHARGE MAY WELL BE READ AS BEING LEVELLED AT CISL SECRETARY GENERAL STORTI. IN HIS OWN WAY, THEREFORE, MARINI IS ATTACKING THE CCU WHILE COUNTERING TRENTIN'S ATTACK. THE ARTICLE IN GENERAL CAN BE REGARDED AS AN ACT OF MARINI TOSsing HIS HAT INTO THE RING IN THE CONTEST (PRIMARILY WITH PIERRE CARNITI) TO SUCCEED STORTI AT THE APEX OF CISL. THE PROMINENT SPACE LENT TO MARINI'S ARTICLE BY "IL POPOLO" SUGGESTS THAT HIS ASPIRATIONS HAVE DC SUPPORT. VOLPE

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